

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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CONFIDENTIAL

Action

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Info

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC

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// CONFIDENTIAL // ACTION DEPT 661 INFO CINCPAC 395 FROM SAIGON
OCTOBER 8, 7 PM

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EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED COPIES OF TWO LETTERS, EACH OF WHICH ADDRESSED SEPARATELY TO "NEW YORK TIMES", "NEWSWEEK", AND "CONGRESSMAN FROM IDAHO" (PRESUMABLY SENATOR CHURCH). LETTERS REPORTEDLY HAND CARRIED OUT OF VIETNAM LAST WEEK BY AMERICAN WITH NO RPT NO OFFICIAL POSITION. LETTERS REPORTEDLY ALREADY POSTED BY INTERNATIONAL MAIL. BOTH LETTERS BEAR HANDWRITTEN LETTERHEAD OF "VIETNAMESE STUDENTS AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CFN 661 395 8 7

GAGE TWO RUMJIR 11A. C O N F I D E T I A L
STEERING COMMITTEE SAIGON."

LETTERS DESCRIBE DIEM REGIME'S OPPRESSION OF STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS. ATTEMPTS "DISABUSE" AMERICANS THAT STRUGGLE AGAINST REGIME IS NOT RPT NOT WIDESPREAD, AND POINTS OUT THAT WEAPONS USED AGAINST STUDENTS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY AMERICANS TO HELP VIETNAMESE FIGHT COMMUNISM. AFTER STATING THAT BUDDHIST STRUGGLE HAS BECOME STUDENT STRUGGLE, LETTER ASSERTS THAT IF STUDENTS DO NOT GAIN SUPPORT OF AMERICANS, THEY WILL BE FORCED TO LEAN TOWARD COMMUNISTS WITH LATTER EMERGING AS "FINAL VICTORS." SECOND LETTER, DATED OCTOBER 2, CONCLUDES THAT IF US CONTINUES HELP DIEM REPRESS STUDENTS, THEN STUDENTS DECLARE "US SHOULD PULL OUT OF VIETNAM OR IT IS CURSED BY VIETNAMESE PEOPLE."

FULL TEXTS OF LETTERS BEING POUCHED. GP-4 LODGE
BT

NOTE: PASSED WHITE HOUSE 1:20 PM, OCTOBER 8.

State Department review completed